GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7294
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
ANTI AIDS MEDICINE LIST
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the WHO has added 10 anti-ritroviral medicines for treatment of HIV infections to its list of `essential medicines` for all countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering to include these drugs in its list;

(c) whether the Government have sought scientific evidence about these medicines effectiveness in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, Government does not provide Anti Retroviral Drugs under the National AIDS Control Programme because of prohibitive cost of Anti Retroviral Therapy as it has to be taken life long and also needs expensive laboratory tests for monitoring the response of therapy.

(c) & (d) The effectiveness of Anti Retroviral Drugs in management of HIV/AIDS disease has been demonstrated worldwide. In a feasibility study conducted by Government of India in 11 centres in the country, the Anti Retroviral Drugs Zidovudine (AZT) was found effective in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.